

At its February 2, 1998 meeting, the City Council fine-tuned Lafayette's mission statement, which had not been reviewed by the Council for many years.

The original mission statement established the goal of preserving those characteristics that make Lafayette a truly special place to live in and it also described Lafayette as a "no property tax city" since the City levied no property taxes. The updated statement, shown at right, recognizes that in the aftermath of Proposition 13 and various subsequent pieces of legislation, the State now redirects approximately \$0.065 of each residents' property tax dollar, or approximately \$1.5 million per year, back to the City.

Due to the City's historically smaller revenue base, Lafayette has remained focused primarily on core services including planning, police and public works. Lafayette continues to be a city with limited services and a conservative fiscal policy. For example, the City does not own or have plans to build a City Hall or municipal facilities that are not cost-effective such as a gymnasium, swimming pool or tennis courts. Instead, residents may enjoy a broad range of services offered by

Lafayette's Recreation Department on a fee-for-service basis, with no taxpayer subsidy.

Though Lafayette is sandwiched between very dense corridors of population and development immediately to the east and west, the revised mission statement seeks to preserve a slower, safer, and more secure way of life. While other California cities must spend resources to improve residents' quality of life, Lafayette is in the enviable position of being able to focus upon preserving the excellent quality of life that we already enjoy.

The new mission statement also reflects the important part that volunteers play in the community. While many cities may have, perhaps, 35 volunteer commissioners and 100 professional staff members, the inverse is true in Lafayette. With one of the lowest staff-per-capita ratios in the State, the City has, since its incorporation, relied on a strong system of volunteers to make and implement community decisions. The City's commission system provides opportunities for just about any resident who is interested to participate in the city's governance — and is one more thing that makes Lafayette a wonderful place to live.

CITY COUNCIL

APPROVES "NEW"

Mission Statement

Lafayette was incorporated for the preservation and enhancement of the semi-rural character of the community.

Lafayette shall endeavor to maintain the nature of the community by using a volunteer system of commissions and committees to assist a small staff whose number is consistent with the services provided. Limited services and a conservative fiscal policy shall be Lafayette's practice.

ASSIST IN SETTING CITY STANDARDS

The City's General Plan is being revised. Since the Plan will serve as the blueprint for the City's future "look and feel," all residents are encouraged to participate in the revision process.

The new General Plan will set the standards for the use of real property, traffic circulation, and other major land use issues for Lafayette for the next decade. Your input is important. Please note the following General Plan milestones:

No.	Task	Completion Date
1	Administrative Draft General Plan	May 15
2	Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	May 15
3	Review of Administrative Draft General Plan by the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)	May 15 - July 15
4	Staff Review of Administrative Draft GP in light of GPAC comments and preparation of public hearing drafts	July 15 - Aug. 31*
5	Distribute public hearing draft General Plan and EIR	September 1
6	Public review period	Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 (60 days)
7	Planning Commission and City Council public hearings on draft EIR and draft General Plan and preparation of final reports	November 1 onwards**

* If significant revisions to these documents are required at this point, the schedule would be revised accordingly.

** Date of completion of Final EIR may depend on the number and type of comments received on the Draft EIR.

150 years



Sesquicentennial



150 years



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Claire Murdough (left) and Devon Farrel enjoy the Elam Brown Dedication.

The opening celebration of Lafayette's Sesquicentennial year on Saturday, February 7, 1998, was a great success! More than 250 Lafayette residents braved one of February's heaviest storms to turn out for the dedication of the Elam Brown monument, commemorating the site of the town founder's first house.

Civic pride was obvious at the first celebration of Founder's Day which followed at Sammann's barn next to the Happy Valley School. The spirit of Elam Brown (impersonated by Lafayette resident Ray Peters) was evident, while partygoers enjoyed food, a 150th birthday cake donated by local merchants, festive music, and the opportunity to purchase Lafayette Sesquicentennial souvenirs.

INITIAL EVENT A SUCCESS



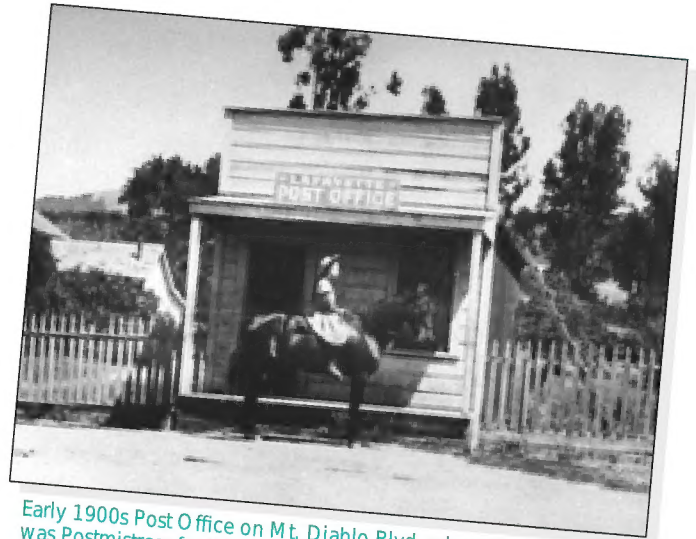
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LAFAYETTE TO CELEBRATE PONY EXPRESS' ROLE IN CITY'S HISTORY

The second event in the year-long celebration of Lafayette's founding 150 years ago will be celebrated in two parts. On Thursday, April 23 at 2:30pm, the dedication of a plaque commemorating the role of the Pony Express mail service in Lafayette's history will take place at the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road. Then on Saturday, April 25, a program celebrating the dedication will be held at 1pm at the Lafayette United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 955 Moraga Road. The plaque was made available through the generosity of Lafayette businesses and the Lafayette Historical Society.

Delivery of mail by Pony Express began on April 3, 1860 and continued for slightly more than 19 months, until the transcontinental telegraph line to San Francisco was completed. Before the Pony Express service, mail deliveries from the East usually took 4 to 6 weeks to reach California. The Pony Express relay system of riders and horses was able to carry the mail more than 1,900 miles from St. Joe, Missouri to San Francisco in 12 to 14 days.

The mail traveled by water between the last relay station in Sacramento and San Francisco, but on 20 occasions the Pony Express riders literally missed the boat. That helped put Lafayette on the map, since the riders then continued overland to the Benecia ferry and into Lafayette. After stopping for fresh horses at the Pony Express Station (located at what is now Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road) the riders made their final push to the Oakland ferry and into San Francisco.



Early 1900s Post Office on Mt. Diablo Blvd. where Carrie Van Meter was Postmistress for 23 years.

Make plans now to join in the Pony Express celebration on April 25 at the Lafayette United Methodist Church. In addition to party food and a fun-filled, educational program for the kids, you'll find out which fourth graders wrote the best essays describing "Why I Would Like To Be a Pony Express Rider." For more information, call the Sesquicentennial information line at 284-1968, Ext. 150.



TIDBITS . . .

YOUR LIBRARY VOTE WILL COUNT IN JUNE - The five regional library boards, including the Lamorinda Board, have agreed upon a plan to fund enhanced operations of the County library system through a proposed 1/8 cent sales tax. If approved by voters in June, the measure will provide about \$464,000 to the Lamorinda Region annually, to be used to increase materials and technology resources and allow the 3 libraries to provide at least 54 hours of library service per week. Currently, the County funds up to 28 hours per week.

SOLID WASTE AND SEWER RATES TO REMAIN THE SAME

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority's first use of competitive bidding for residential waste removal and recycling services and an insurance policy reimbursement to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District have enabled both public agencies to announce that there will be no increase in residential rates in the Lamorinda area.

CABLE TV SERVICE - Residents frequently ask questions about their service. Here's some information you may find helpful:

- TCI is a private cable television company subject to federal controls. Congress and the FCC regulate rates and franchise fees, as well as requirements to carry specific TV channels. Last July, the FCC found that TCI's rates were valid, and will allow the company to increase its rates to reflect increases in the cost of doing business.
- In return for a 5% franchise fee, Lafayette renewed its cable television franchise with TCI in June 1993, allowing the company to continue to use City right of way for placement of cable lines. However, TCI's failure to provide at least 54-channel service to City residents by May 31, 1997, means that the terms of the franchise could be terminated on August 31, 2002.
- Lamorinda, Rossmore, Pleasant Hill, and part of Walnut Creek currently receive 43-channel service. Cities in the northeast Bay area, which receive as many as 70 channels, are test sites for new technology which would provide expanded channel options and services. TCI's goal is to offer the new technology in all of its franchise areas over the next two years.

SPRING INTO - SPRING! - Learn about home composting at a free workshop offered by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority from 1-3pm on Saturday, May 16, at the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Composting can improve your soil while reducing the flow of waste to landfills, and may make you eligible for a \$1 reduction in your waste removal bill. For more information call 906-1806.

SAVE COMMUTING TIME AND MONEY - Instead of enduring a long commute, enjoy it in a van pool! You can receive a 50% rebate on vanpool fare for the first three months, or earn \$1,000 by starting a new vanpool of 6 persons for 12 months. To find out more about the CCC Vanpool Incentive Rebate Program call 275-2296. Call 275-2230 for information about forming a new vanpool or call RIDES at 1-800-755-7665 to be matched up with an existing vanpool.

NEW ON THE CITY WEB PAGE - The City Web Page is better than ever! Volunteer Dave Bricetti and assistants Ryan Star and Scott Ritchie have created a terrific page for the Parks and Recreation Department that is filled with information about classes and schedules for youth, teen, adult and senior activities, and you can register for them on-line. For more information, check www.lafayetterec.com, or use the link from the main City page, www.ci.lafayette.ca.us.

AROUND TOWN

Thursdays LAMORINDA TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL - Develop your speaking, listening and leadership skills. 7:30 pm, St. Anselms Church, 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette. Info: Lyman Munson, 254-6659.

Apr. 23 PONY EXPRESS PLAQUE DEDICATION - 2:30 pm at Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road.

Apr. 25 SESQUICENTENNIAL PROGRAM AND CELEBRATION - Celebration with a focus on the Pony Express in Lafayette's history. 1:00 pm, Lafayette United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 955 Moraga Road.

Apr. 25 LAFAYETTE JUNIORS' FOURTH ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE - Proceeds from this popular fund-raiser event benefit the Lafayette Library, Kindergym, Contact Care, Bay Area Crisis Nursery and other programs in Lafayette. 7 am - 5 pm, Lafayette Veterans Hall.

May 16 HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP - Free - Sponsored by CCC Solid Waste Authority. 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Orchard Nursery.

June 1 PUBLIC HEARING ON CITY BUDGET - The City has scheduled a special session to determine the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. 7:00 pm, Lafayette Community Center, Sequoia Room, 500 St. Mary's Rd.

June 15 TECHNOLOGY FAIR - The Lafayette Hotel is the site for the Chamber sponsored Technology Fair. Info: Sereta 975-4305 or Dan 283-6638.

July 4th INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE PARK - Lafayette's 3rd Annual "Independence Day at the Park" celebration will be held at the south meadow baseball/soccer fields, approx. 100 yards south of South Lucille Lane on St. Mary's Road. 9:30 am - 3:00 pm.

July 12 CONCOURS D' ELEGANCE - Lafayette's biggest annual affair and fundraiser for local charities and the Chamber of Commerce. Inspect beautiful vintage autos and bump into old neighbors and friends. Info: Chamber of Commerce, 284-7407.

Parks & Recreation Activities - 284-2232

SUMMER FUN REGISTRATION - Begins April 22 at 5:30 pm.

KID'S ALL-AMERICAN FISHING DERBY April 25, 6th Annual Derby at the Reservoir.

BANDS IN A BLENDER - Teen Bands Concert at Moraga Commons, May 9, Noon to 5:00 pm.

TRIPS FOR TEENS - (6th-12th grade) 5/15-16: Yosemite, 6/6: Great America, 6/20: Waterworld.

SUMMER FUN & ADVENTURE CAMP - June 22 at Burton Valley and Stanley Schools.

BARN RAISING IN LAFAYETTE

Final touches are being put on the landscaping plans for Lafayette's newest barn at 3001 Camino Diablo Blvd.



(100 yards east of Loveland Drive), which will house the City's Public Works Services. The barn was designed to resemble a small equestrian stable complete with a dark green roof, wood textured siding, and a weather vane!

The relocation of the present Public Works facility, which overlooks Happy Valley Creek in downtown Lafayette, will allow better use of that prime commercial property, and at the same time enhance the semi-rural character of the east side of the City.

Experience, energy and enthusiasm are characteristics that combine to make Lafayette's Public Works crew an efficient and effective City asset. The vigilance of the crew ensures the protection of City and residential property through on-going maintenance of streets and drainage systems, as well as access to emergency services during non-work hours.

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF: ON-CALL HEROES

Although someone is always on-call after-hours, the team ramped up coverage during El Nino's storms, with Engineering Technician Rick Grimes and Senior Maintenance Workers Jim Bloom and Gary Pernich on-call 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Emergency work dispatches usually come through the Sheriff's Office, and involve downed trees, power outages, car accidents, or flooding. Workers have 45 minutes to get to the Public Works shop and start dealing with the problem.



Jim Bloom, Gary Pernich and Rick Grimes at work.

Even without emergencies, the job is a dangerous one, involving climbing up hill-sides and down into streams and culverts, and dealing with displaced boulders and fallen trees on City owned and City maintained properties. Duties include maintaining 2,200 signs, 90 miles of public roadways, curbs and gutters, 1,300 catch basins, 105 acres of landscaped medians and parklands, and a wide range of creek abatement activities. According to Gary Pernich, there's no such thing as a typical day. "There's no routine," he says. "There's always something different, and that's how I like it."

In combination, Lafayette's Public Works crew has close to 50 years of public works experience. The admittedly small department does receive sporadic assistance from county work crews, and is also supplemented with part-time and temporary workers as the need arises. However, each member of the crew serves as jack-of-all-trades, performing a wide variety of maintenance tasks. "A job with a bigger city, or with the county or state would involve much more specialization," comments Jim Bloom. "It's really nice to be able to take a break from roadwork, and spend time on park maintenance or landscaping."

"We do the very best we can with the resources we have," says Rick Grimes, who as Engineering Technician has both office and field responsibilities. "We're taking advantage of computer technology and anything else that will help us stay ahead of potential problems."

CITY DIRECTORY

Leave your Council Members a message on the City's voice mail system!
Call 284-1968

Officers

		EXT.
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Donald L. Tatzin	Council Member	274

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

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Jennifer Russell	Parks and Rec. Director
Mike Henn	Planning Serv. Mgr.
Mike Ilg	Police Serv. Mgr.
Vacant	Public Works Serv. Mgr.
Juliet Shanks	School Bus Analyst

City Offices and Police

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Public Works:	284-1968	
Senior Services:	284-5050	
Police Business:	284-5010	283-4126
Police Emergency:	911	
Voice Mail System:	284-1968	
Rebecca Lee, Editor, Lafayette Vistas:	284-1968	284-3169



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